REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

In response to the Examiner's final Office Action of February 1, 2008 the Applicant respectfully submits the accompanying Amendment of the claims and the below Remarks.

Regarding Amendment

In the Amendment:

independent claim 1 is amended to clarify that the one way function is applied to both the secondary entities identifiers and the first secret information. Support for this amendment can be found at paragraphs [5411]-[5426] of the present specification; and

dependent claims 2-32 are unchanged.

It is respectfully submitted that the Amendment does not add any new matter to the present application, nor any new issues to the prosecution of the present application.

Regarding Foreign Priority

It is respectfully submitted that the certified copies of the foreign priority Australian provisional patent applications are proper certified copies fully for establishing foreign priority under 35 USC 119(a), because 35 USC 119 complies with Article 4 of the Paris Convention in which Article 4A(2) states that:

"*Any filing that is equivalent to a regular national filing under the domestic legislation of any country of the Union or under bilateral or multilateral treaties concluded between countries of the Union shall be recognized as giving rise to the right of priority.*"; and Article 4A(3) states that:

"*by a regular national filing is meant any filing that is adequate to establish the date on which the application was filed in the country concerned, whatever may be the subsequent fate of the application.*"
.

Accordingly, because Australian provisional patent applications are treated as regular national filings under Australian Patent Law Sections 29 and 30, then under the Paris Convention and US 35 USC 119, foreign priority can be properly claimed and perfected using Australian provisional patent applications.

Regarding 35 USC 102(b) and 103(a) Rejections

It is respectfully submitted that the subject matter of amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-32 dependent therefrom, is not disclosed or suggest by Spies either taken alone or in view of Schneier, for at least the following reasons.

As discussed above, independent claim 1 has been amended to clarify that the one way function is applied to <u>both</u> the secondary entities identifiers and the first secret information. In this way, equivalent signatures can be generated by the different entities without passing of secret keys (see paragraphs [5411]-[5426] of the present specification).

On the other hand, Spies specifically discloses at col. 11, lines 1-20 that "The digital signature is generated by encrypting a hash of the credential using the private key of the trusted credential authority".

One of ordinary skill in the art understands that this means that only the credential is hashed and then the private key of the trusted credential authority is used to encrypt the
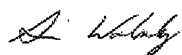
hashed credential. Accordingly, it is respectfully submitted that Spies does not disclose or suggest applying a one way function to <u>both</u> the credential and the private key, as would be required to meet the recitation of amended independent claim 1.

Further, it is respectfully submitted that Schneier does not provide any disclosure which would motivate one of ordinary skill in the art to modify the process disclosed by Spies with respect to amended independent claim 1, and claims 2-32 dependent therefrom.

It is respectfully submitted that all of the Examiner's objections and rejections have been traversed. Accordingly, it is submitted that the present application is in condition for allowance and reconsideration of the present application is respectfully requested.

Very respectfully,

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